

IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD

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According to Matthew 4:3, Satan made a statement toward Christ, "If you are the Son of God". Why did Satan's voice reaffirm in Christ, "if you are the Son of God"?

We find many statements about the active Christ's divinity and his development in the Old Testament, therefore Christ made supernatural things for the benefit to his people of Israel, which give us trustfulness and sureness in him, but the New Testament, this principle has been challenged against the Christ's divinity if this really is real. Let's see some biblical evidences to understand the contexts.

1. A Divine Selfsameness: Oftentimes I've heard some people mention erroneously about the relationship between Christ and his Father God, because they use a human understanding and spiritual no. That's to say, they've taken Christ like a created being, for he hold an epithet "Son" Regardless the Bible presents the principle of a divine selfsameness. Christ and God are one in unity (Jn. 17:11), one in authority (Mt. 11:27) and one in nature (Heb. 1:3) but they aren't one in person; they have a wonderful interrelationship at the heavenly sanctuary for the fallen humanity's redemption.

Indeed Christ is the man's son because he redeemed us (Gal. 3:13), he is the God's son because himself is God. The titles assigned in the Bible "God's son" "man's son" are only used in the context of the Godhead's function for the fallen humanity's redemption. Thereupon, for this enouncement, a correct interpretation would be: Christ, Holy Spirit and God are one in character, purpose and nature.

2. Carrying-out in the Old Testament: Satan had known the God's work in the Old Testament toward his people, specially the work of the manna (Ex. 16) Christ himself was the author of this work (Jn. 6:30-35), therefore Satan challenge to Christ "If you are the Son of God"

3. A Spiritual Temptation: Satan has attacked in all the ages the Godhead's divinity, for resulting, Christ who was God (Jn. 1:18 NIV) had to face these attacks within a human nature (Jn. 1:14). The Bible is clear for manifesting than the miracles' nature aren't a guideline to determine the God's power, since there are false and true miracles (Mk. 13:22), Christ denied himself to accomplish miracles when theses come from challenging shape, rather he made them according to the people's needs under the God's will his Father. "The temptation consisted in the satanic suggestion that Christ should satisfy his hunger in an unlawful form, with no take the God's will".¹

Notwithstanding, the first prophecy of the Bible (Gen. 3:15) presents to Christ like our substitute, our redeemer for the human race, because of our first earthly parents' sin (Gen. 3:1-10) this prophecy should have its fulfillment totally, for that reason, as soon as the fulfillment was established, Christ died in a cross (Phil. 2:8) he was our lamb (Jn. 1:29; Heb. 9:26; 10:12). Therefore the God's promises made to us through his Word (the Bible) never fail, but we should interpret them in the divine context.

In the same pathway, we can see to Christ and Satan in the desert, Christ didn't use his divine power for an own benefit, even when he was the same God (Phil. 2:6-7) wherefore the Word of God had his fulfillment in Christ. Nevertheless the Bible presents to Christ like the second Adam (Rom. 5:14; 1 Cor. 15:45) that's to say, a human being with no divine attributes in himself.

Equally, we can behold other contrast between the roman soldiers and Christ in the cross. Under the prophecy of Isaiah 53 we perceive to Christ in the suffering (Calvary) and now the roman soldiers say to Christ "If you are the Son of God" (Mt. 27:40). Hence when Christ didn't execute as God in the desert, it's for the theological or spiritual context of the fulfillment toward the Word of God.

In our daily life, we haven't been called to show the God's power by the Satan's whims, but we have been called to show the God's power under the will of him toward us.

Conclusion

Self-denial was the law of his mission.

¹ Comentario Bíblico Adventista del Séptimo Dia, 5T p. 303